THE LINE OF DC SUPER-STARS
Adventure COMICS
STARRING
AQUAMAN
30c
NO. 447
OCT.
30415
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
YOU MAY HAVE STOPPED ME, AQUAMAN--
--BUT YOU'LL STILL BE CAUGHT IN THE FISHERMAN'S NET!
EXTRA! THE CREEPER TAKES A DEATHWALK!

# 3 Free Baseball Cards

## on specially marked boxes of Hostess® Snack Cakes.

A total of 150 cards.
Full of facts. Collect 'em. Trade 'em.

3 full-color cards printed on the bottom of every specially marked box of Twinkies,® Cup Cakes, Suzy Q's,® and other mmmmmmmm-delicious Hostess® Snacks.

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Offer expires August 31 1976

# AQUAMAN -- SEA KING IN EXILE!

## "PRELUDE TO ARMAGEDDON"

HOW SWEET MY VICTORY, AQUAMAN... FOR NOW YOU WILL NEVER KNOW WHY YOU WERE DETHRONED!
THINK OF IT-- ALL YOUR BEWILDERMENT... ALL YOUR AGONIZED FRUSTRATION... WILL GO WITH YOU--
--TO THE GRAVE!!
PAUL LEVITZ-PLOT • MARTIN PASKO-SCRIPT
JIM APARO-ART • JOE ORLANDO-EDITOR
CARL GAFFORD -- COLORIST
J-426B

THE THRONE ROOM IN ATLANTIS :
...SO I WAS FORCED TO FLEE MY SHOWBOAT WHEN AQUAMAN INTERFERED!
I FEAR HE NOW KNOWS ABOUT THE LASER-RIFLES!*
SIGH ENOUGH, BLACK MANTA! BE SILENT!
*LAST ISSUE-Joe.

I SUPPOSE YOUR INCOMPETENCE SHOULD IRRITATE ME --BUT TODAY I AM MUCH TOO ELATED FOR THAT...
...BECAUSE THE BATTLE I'VE LONG PLANNED FOR IS AT HAND...
...AND SO, I SUSPECT, IS THE FINAL VICTORY!

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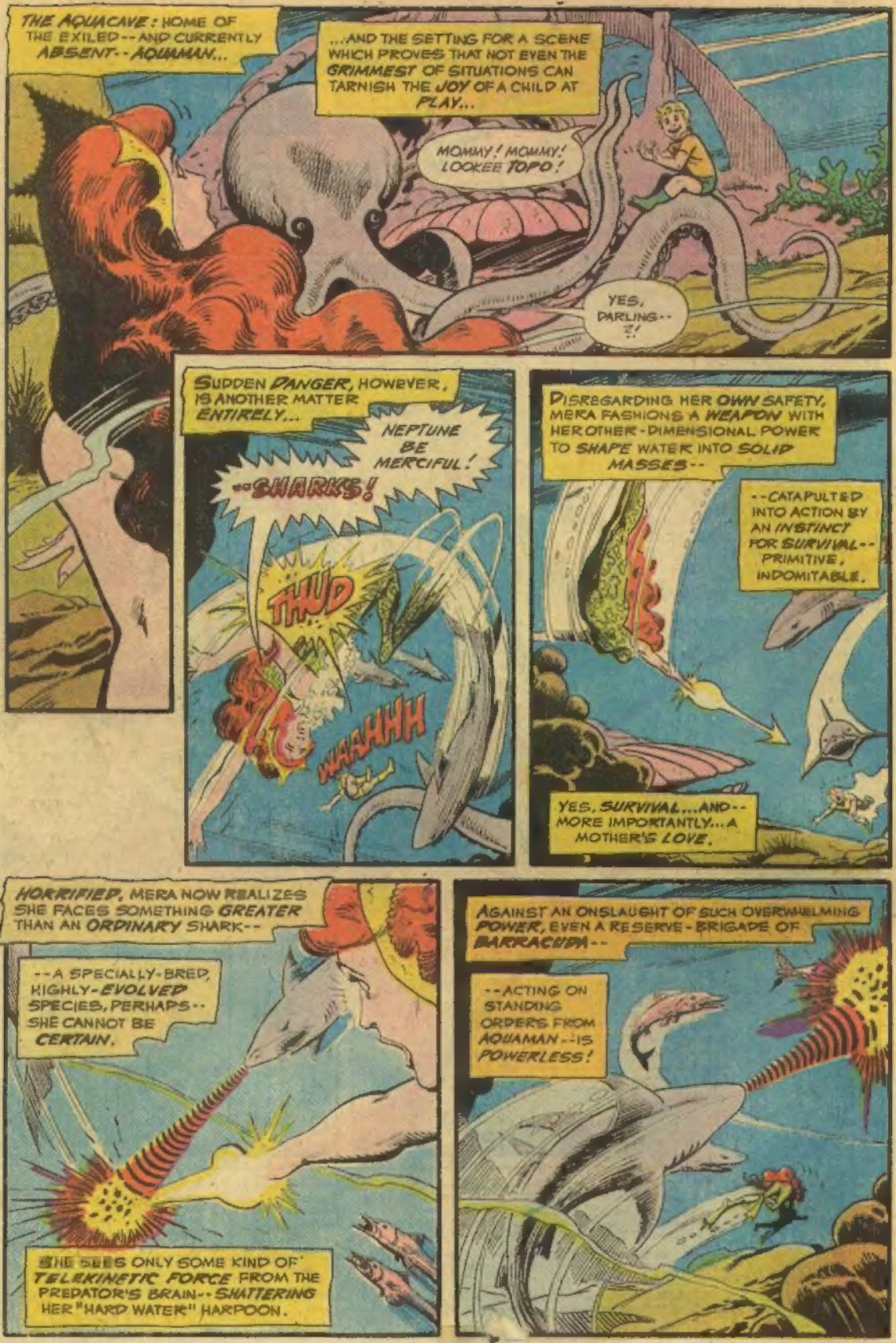
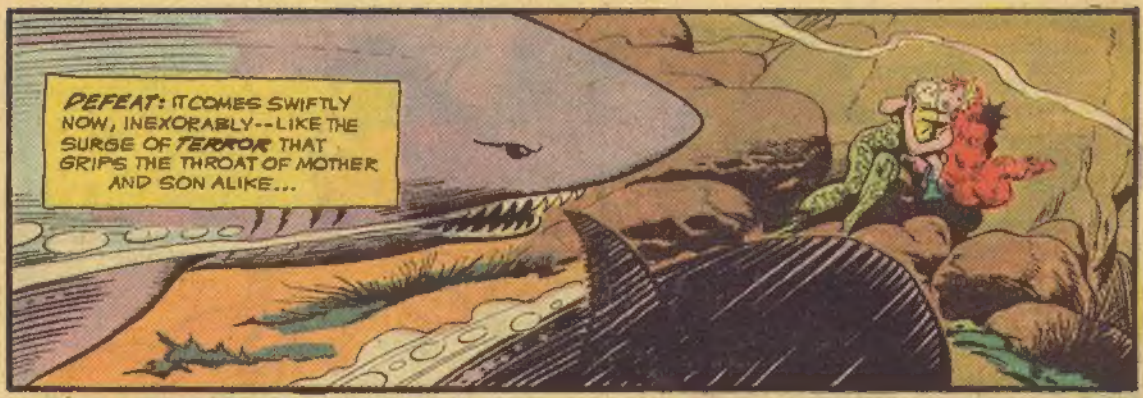
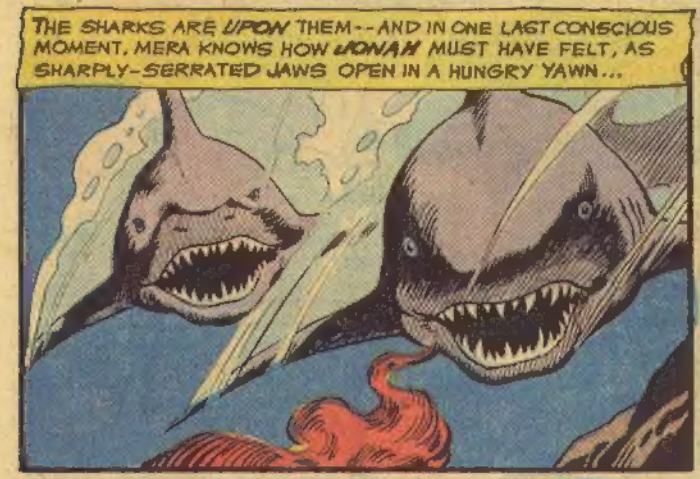
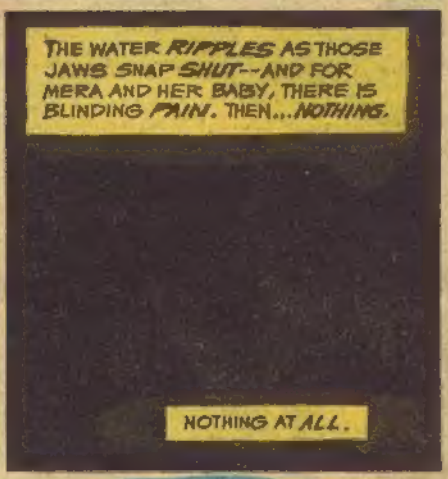

THE AQUACAVE: HOME OF THE EXILED--AND CURRENTLY ABSENT--AQUAMAN...
...AND THE SETTING FOR A SCENE WHICH PROVES THAT NOT EVEN THE GRIMMEST OF SITUATIONS CAN TARNISH THE JOY OF A CHILD AT PLAY...
MOMMY! MOMMY! LOOKEE TOPO!
YES, DARLING--?!
SUDDEN DANGER, HOWEVER, IS ANOTHER MATTER ENTIRELY...
NEPTUNE BE MERCIFUL!
--SHARKS!
THUD
WAAHHH
DISREGARDING HER OWN SAFETY, MERA FASHIONS A WEAPON WITH HER OTHER-DIMENSIONAL POWER TO SHAPE WATER INTO SOLID MASSES--
--CATAPULTED INTO ACTION BY AN INSTINCT FOR SURVIVAL--PRIMITIVE, INDOMITABLE.
YES, SURVIVAL...AND--MORE IMPORTANTLY...A MOTHER'S LOVE.
HORRIFIED, MERA NOW REALIZES SHE FACES SOMETHING GREATER THAN AN ORDINARY SHARK--
--A SPECIALLY-BRED, HIGHLY-EVOLVED SPECIES, PERHAPS--SHE CANNOT BE CERTAIN.
SHE SEES ONLY SOME KIND OF TELEKINETIC FORCE FROM THE PREDATOR'S BRAIN--SHATTERING HER "HARD WATER" HARPOON.
AGAINST AN ONSLAUGHT OF SUCH OVERWHELMING POWER, EVEN A RESERVE-BRIGADE OF BARRACUDA--
--ACTING ON STANDING ORDERS FROM AQUAMAN--IS POWERLESS!


DEFEAT: IT COMES SWIFTLY NOW, INEXORABLY--LIKE THE SURGE OF TERROR THAT GRIPS THE THROAT OF MOTHER AND SON ALIKE...


THE SHARKS ARE UPON THEM--AND IN ONE LAST CONSCIOUS MOMENT, MERA KNOWS HOW JONAH MUST HAVE FELT, AS SHARPLY-SERRATED JAWS OPEN IN A HUNGRY YAWN...


THE WATER RIPPLES AS THOSE JAWS SNAP SHUT--AND FOR MERA AND HER BABY, THERE IS BLINDING PAIN. THEN...NOTHING.
NOTHING AT ALL.

MEANWHILE--ABOARD A COAST GUARD CUTTER IN THE MISSISSIPPI DELTA...
BLACK MANTA--GUN-RUNNING TO ATLANTIS? THAT'S NOT HIS STYLE!
NO, IT ISN'T--WHICH IS WHY I'M SURE THAT A BIGGER FISH IS AT THE BOTTOM OF ALL THIS!

YOU SURE YOU CAN HANDLE YOUR PART OF THE PLAN, MINNOW?
NO SWEAT, OLD BUDDY!
I CAN HARDLY WAIT TILL I SEE KARSHON'S FACE WHEN I CONFRONT HIM WITH THIS LASER-RIFLE...

...EXACTLY LIKE THE ONES HIS GUARDS PULLED ON YOU AT THE UNDERSEA ARMORY!
TO SAY NOTHING OF THE SURPRISE WE'VE COOKED UP FOR HIM!
HEY, LOVER--OUR TAXI'S ARRIVED!
GOODBYE, KIDS--AND BE CAREFUL!
"SURPRISE"?
THAT'S RIGHT--BUT FOR NOW, IT HAS TO REMAIN TOP SECRET!
WELL, DO YOU MIND TELLING ME WHO KARSHON IS, AT LEAST?
NOT AT ALL, JIM--IF YOU DON'T MIND AN OLD FRIEND POURING OUT HIS HEART!
LIKE THEY SAY--WHAT ARE FRIENDS FOR?
--AND THIS KARSHON REPLACED ME AS KING! I WAS TOLD TO KEEP AWAY FROM ATLANTIS--OR BE SHOT ON SIGHT!
THAT'S A HELL OF A NOTE! ANY IDEA WHY?
NOT REALLY...
...THE COUNCIL SAID ATLANTIS NEEDED A KING WHO COULD DEVOTE HIS FULL ATTENTION TO LEADERSHIP--NOT A SEAFARING SUPER-HERO!
BUT I GET THE FEELING KARSHON IS MANIPULATING THEM...
...ONLY HOW AND WHY I HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT YET!
I'M STICKING AROUND THIS AREA--TRYING TO GET A LINE ON WHERE THOSE LASER-RIFLES COME FROM!
I'M FIGURING THE PROP WAS MADE HERE BECAUSE THE FACTORY THAT BUILT THEM IS NEARBY!
WELL, I KNOW OF ONLY ONE FACTORY-TYPE BUILDING HEREABOUTS--BUT IT'S NOT A MUNITIONS PLANT!
IT MANUFACTURES CONFEDERATE SOUVENIRS --"MEMENTOS OF YOUR VISIT TO THE LAND OF JONQUILS AND MAGNOLIAS", THAT SORT OF THING...
CONTINUED ON 5TH PAGE FOLLOWING.

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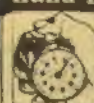

IMPORT BARGAIN — WHILE THEY LAST.

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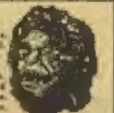

Professionally made. Realistic in every detail. Covers full head. Rear with ball cross entire head. 2 mouths red lips. Facial marks. Fleshtone color. Deep set eyes. Clings when worn. Thin, moulded latex mask.

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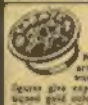

Rugged, impressive martial arts rings. Hand finished workmanship & deeply etched figures give exquisite look. Beautiful as sculptured objects. Simply their "practical look." Adjustable size.

☐ 6305 Karate Ring ..... $1.25
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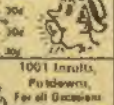

Putter Gum, Putrid ☐ 2728, Pkg. of 9 ..... 30¢
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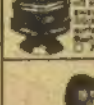
☐ 1777 Insult Encyclopedia ..... 79¢

## Red Flasher Light



$1.95 Police style Warning Light. Fits on fender or roof of auto for red light alerts for safety. With suction cup base. Operates on 6 volt battery or cigarette lighter type cord. Runs on 2 penlight batteries. Allows 6" ... Flasher ..... $1.98

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Specify shirt style, color, size.
T-Shirt ..... $4.95
Turtleneck ..... $6.95

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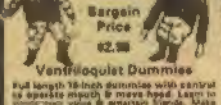

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Phaser All 3 $2.95 Tricorder

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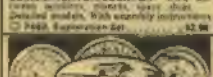

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Complete set of 12 authentic blueprints of the fabulous starship Enterprise. From the bridge to Mr. Spock's desk. Every section to the shuttlecraft, the photon torpedo bank to the science labs of Mr. Spock. Every facet of the fabulous U.S.S. Enterprise laid out in scale to exact detail! Each blueprint is full 9" x 36" (all of 13 in all) with instructions covering each.

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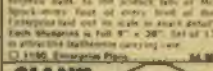

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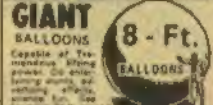

Shock friends with this vibrating shocker. Looks like a pencil. Put it in your hand and press button. Feel it vibrate. Then put it on your friend's hand and press button. Watch him jump!

☐ 2000 Joy Buzzer ..... 79¢

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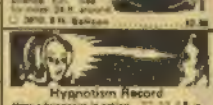

Grow Finger, Fern, Vine & Leaves. Eat flies, insects, and other small animals. Fingers, pencil, bugs, feeds insects by trapping and digesting them. Most unusual plants in world" easy-to-grow indoors. Leaves glow in dark, while flowers. Grow up to 72 inches high.

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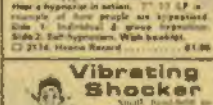

Las Vegas Replica. Take a chance. Insert coin, pull arm lever, and spin handle. Jackpot! Watch dials spin. Big payoff if you hit Cherry-Cherry-Cherry for your bank. Smooth action. 5" high. Just like gambling casino.

☐ 6040 Slot Bank ..... $4.95

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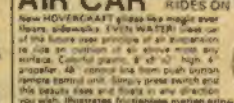

New HOVERCRAFT glides like magic over floors, sidewalks, even WATER! Does not of the future over principle of air suspension ride on cushion of air above every surface. Colorful plastic, 8" of 10" high 4 propeller 48" control line from push button remote control unit. Simply press switch and this beauty rises and floats in any direction you wish. Illustrates frictionless motion principles of full size experimental vehicles already in use. Run a kit. Ready-to-run except for 2 "C" batteries (not included).

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Official Star Fleet Academy Training Manual. Classified material, specifications, blueprints, diagrams, charts, codes that Kirk, Spock & 60 cadets must know before they can explore the 23rd century. Includes details of equipment, space ships, emergency procedures, etc. Over 200 photos. Illustrations, diagrams, sound effects. Beautifully bound.

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HEAR & SEE your favorite Star Trek 33⅓ rpm story action scenes as you read. Experience every thrilling moment of the full color Star Trek comic book & album record with actors doing the voices of each character. Outstanding complete package!

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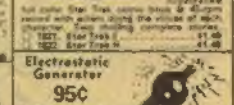
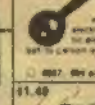


Self-generating. Do experiments, stunts and tricks with amazing new device.

☐ 6007 Gen ea. ..... 3 for $2.00

## $1.49 Midget Spy Camera



Take secret or regular pictures. Size of pocket watch. Concealed in hand.

Imported bargain. Solid metal construction. Genuine lens, takes finder. 2½ oz. Takes ten pictures per each roll.

☐ 4000 Camera (without case) ..... $1.49
☐ 4001 Film 3 Rolls (20 Pictures) ..... 39¢

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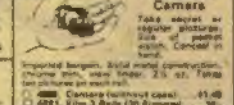
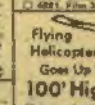


Flying authentic replica of helicopter used in armed forces. Uses 24" propeller. Goes up to 100' high. Transport pilots.

☐ 2000 Flying Helicopter ..... $1.50

## Crime Detection Lab



Modern Mini Scientific Crime Lab. Chemical crime detection. Similar tests used by FBI, police. Fingerprinting. Other detection methods. Tests, etc. Carrying case and more.

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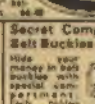
Grips tugged, muscle appearance. Double snap for "Perfect Fit" ADJUSTable. Get two—one for each arm. Genuine leather.

☐ 210 Set of 2 ..... $1.98 Each add

## Secret Compartment Belt Buckles $2.98



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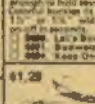
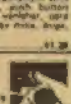
## $1.29 Trick Money Snatcher



Coins or bills instantly vanished as if by magic. Hand friends, relatives. Where money away! Secret action built into spring-type fabric. Hand magicians with real invisible action thread, push button mechanism, one as magic wand, one jumper, remote control for the three. Instructions.

☐ 3207 Money Snatcher ..... $1.29

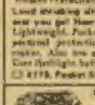
## Pocket Electric Siren — $1.95



Instant Protection Anywhere. Loud shrieking siren whenever you go! Hear for blocks. Lightweight. Pocket size. Fine personal protection, burglar alarm, more. Also use as door or window alarm. Uses flashlight battery.

☐ 6119 Pocket Siren ..... $1.95

## Giant Mystery Stamp Bag



Catalog value nearly $20.00 or your money back! Unsorted mixture assortment of close to 500 stamps from around the world. Wonderful even for experienced collector. Includes special price packet of unusual triangle & pictorial stamps.

☐ 7670 Stamp Bag ..... $2.00

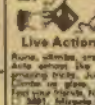
## 39¢ Live Action Miracle Mouse

Runs, climbs, crawls at your command. Runs across floor, climbs. Maze & dry erasing tricks. Jumps from hand to hand. Comes in glow, every, can of fun, any. Fun for hours. No batteries needed.

☐ 3301 Miracle Mouse ..... 39¢

## New Pocket TV Radio

ENJOY TV Sound, AM or FM Outdoors, In Car or Anywhere!



LISTEN TO TV PROGRAMS WITHOUT YOUR TV SET! NEVER MISS YOUR FAVORITE PROGRAMS! Portable solid state radio receives sound of all TV channels 2 thru 13 plus AM & FM. Large 3¾" speaker for regular listening. Plug per-phones for private listening. Large swing dial. Telescopic antenna for distant stations. Handy pocket size: approx 5½ x 3½ x 1¼", with Break battery & carrying strap. Also runs on 110V house current with adapter. (Add $2.98). Money back guarantee.

☐ 6670 TV Radio ..... $19.98
☐ 6672 Adapter ..... $3.98

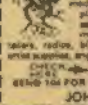
## Secret Pocket Pen Radio

$2.59

Listen almost anywhere! Slip into pocket like ordinary pen. Two earphones for private listening. Push in radio, screw them on. NO BATTERIES NEEDED. Ground wire included for best reception, but will work without grounding. Guaranteed to receive several stations, although reception will vary from place to place. Hear SPORTS, MUSIC, NEWS, etc. in office, school, bed, etc. Solid-state circuit. Complete, ready to use.

☐ 7002 Spy Pen Radio ..... $2.59

## Free 1976 Catalog 1600 Novelties



World famous catalog of novelties, jokes, practical items, cloth patches, hobbies, scientific supplies, funmakers, games & books, gadgets, magic tricks, optical goods, jewelry, daytimers, magic items, stamps, coins, puzzles, fortune tellers, radios, blues & accessories, telescope, books, office & school supplies, engines, motors, sports, books.

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CATALOG
TOTAL $

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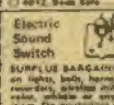
## Secret Book Safe

Looks like attractively bound book but opens to reveal combination lock safe. Keep valuable papers, jewels, money, etc. hidden away, drawer.

☐ 4012 Book Safe ..... $1.69

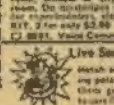
## Electric Sound Switch



SURPLUS BARGAIN! ONLY $1.88. Turns on lights, bells, horns, pictures, stereo tape recorders, electric mixers, etc. Operated by voice, whistle or any sound from super sonic to 6 octaves. Great for use in any of the experimenters electronic toys. NOT A KIT. 3 for only $3.00

☐ 2021 Voice Control Switch ..... $1.88

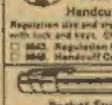
## Live Sea Monkeys $1.25



Watch entire family of exciting pets in 6 months. Kids love to feed, play, etc. Easy to care for. With instructions, of food, complete handbook of facts. Add 25¢ for postage.

☐ 6740 Sea Monkeys Complete ..... $1.25

## Handcuffs $4.95

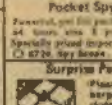


Police style

Regulation size and style, heavy duty, steel with lock and keys. Chrome plated.

☐ 6643 Regulation Style Handcuff ..... $4.95
☐ 6642 Handcuff Case ..... $1.95

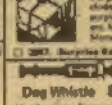
## Pocket Spy Telescope



Powerful, yet fits pocket size easy. Magnifies 64 times, over 1 power. Attractive finish. Specially priced import bargain.

☐ 6720 Spy Scope ..... $1.59

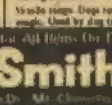
## Surprise Package $1.00



Pleasant surprise and bargain. Fun or useful. Includes many surprises, fantasy purpose, special novelties, etc. Most worth much more. Money back if not delighted.

☐ 2001 Surprise Bargain ..... $1.00

## Dog Whistle $1.00



Visible stops. Dogs respond instantly as if by magic. Used by dog trainers. 6681 ..... $1.00

## Secret Compartment Belt Buckles $2.98



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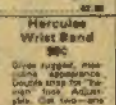
Greatest illusion of the century! Apparently no lenses you look, see thru clothes, etc. Amaze and mystify everyone! Regular size glasses with built-in special illusion.

☐ 1942 XRAY Specs Only ..... $1.00 per Pair



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## Johnson Smith Co.

Dept. 339, 26075 Automation Dr., Mt. Clemens, Mich. 48043

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

LOOK--I DON'T EXPECT TO FIND A NEON SIGN READING "LASER RIFLES MADE HERE"! THE OPERATION HAS TO BE COVERT!
SO WHERE IS THIS PLACE?
RIGHT ABOUT HERE...
"...ON INTERSTATE 20--JUST OUTSIDE OF VICKSBURG..."
SOUVENIRS • ANTIQUES • BAR-B-QUE-TO-GO
COME IN AND SET A SPELL!
JUST MY LUCK--THIS PLACE IS A LOT FURTHER FROM WATER THAN I'D HOPED!
NOT EVEN A WET KLEENEX FOR MILES--LET ALONE A POND OR SOMETHING!
I'VE GOT ABOUT 45 MINUTES OUT OF THE HOUR I CAN STAY "DRY."*
I JUST HOPE THAT'S ENOUGH TIME!
AH, WELL--IT'S AFTER HOURS...
...THERE'S NO ONE AROUND BUT THAT NIGHT WATCHMAN--AND SINCE I'VE MANAGED TO ESCAPE HIS NOTICE...
...I SHOULDN'T NEED MORE THAN A FEW MINUTES TO GET WHAT I CAME FOR!
GUESS AGAIN, AQUAMAN! --FOR WHILE YOU INSPECT THE FACTORY'S STORE-ROOM...
INTRUDER ALE
CONFEDERATE FLAGS... "JOHNNY REB" STATUETTES... PAINTINGS OF LEE AT APPOMATTOX--!
SOMETIMES I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND THESE SURFACE-DWELLERS AT ALL!
* AQUAMAN CANNOT REMAIN OUT OF WATER FOR MORE THAN ONE HOUR. --Joe
YOU'D THINK THEY'D WANT TO FORGET AN UGLY CHAPTER OF HISTORY LIKE THE CIVIL WAR, INSTEAD OF GLORIFYING IT--?!
THE LASER RIFLES! I BELIEVE THE EXPRESSION IS "EUREKA"...?

BUT AS THE MARINE MARVEL'S HAND CLOSES AROUND A RIFLE - BUTT...
KLANG KLANG
ON SECOND THOUGHT... MAYBE NOT!
CLANG
HMM... MAYBE THAT WATCHMAN WAS MORE OBSERVANT THAN I GAVE HIM CREDIT FOR!
THIS IS A VERY ...UNORTHODOX BURGLAR-ALARM-- BUT THE MOVES ARE PRETTY FAMILIAR...
...THE BELL RINGS, AND MANAGEMENT'S GOON SQUAD COMES RUNNING!
THESE BARS ARE PRETTY STURDY-- STRONG ENOUGH TO HOLD AN ORDINARY MAN...
BUT WHEN YOU'VE BEEN UNDER TONS OF WATER PRESSURE AS LONG AS I HAVE YOU TEND TO BE KIND OF STRONG!
KRAAK!
I'M SURE UGLY HERE AND HIS FRIENDS WOULD AGREE WITH ME...
...BUT FOR SOME REASON THEY DON'T SEEM TOO TALKATIVE JUST NOW!

KUNK
YOU!!
"YOU"?
BASIC REUNION CLICHÉ NO. 407! HA-HA... STILL YOUR PREDICTABLE SELF, EH, AQUAMAN?
YES, IT'S ME-- THE FISHERMAN! BUT THE QUESTION IS: WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO ABOUT IT?
STRANGELY, THE FISHERMAN STANDS MOTIONLESS.
...AN EASY TARGET FOR A ROUNDHOUSE RIGHT.
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU ESCAPED THE JAIL CELL NATO THREW YOU INTO AFTER THAT DRUG-SMUGGLING CAPER*...
BUT I'M SENDING YOU BACK--THAT'S WHAT I INTEND TO DO!
* ADVENTURE NO 445 — Joe
NEXT INSTANT, IT BECOMES PAINFULLY CLEAR WHY THE TARGET WAS SO EASY
KA-BOOM

AND WHEN THE MARINE MARVEL'S HEAVY-LIDDED EYES OPEN...
UNNHH! SO WEAK... NEED WATER. WH-WHERE AM I?
...IS THE HOOK! HA HA HA!
THE FISHERMAN YOU STRUCK WASN'T ME AT ALL.
JUST A CLEVER EXPLODING DUMMY I'D RIGGED UP TO PUT YOU OUT OF COMMISSION!
AFTER THE PROWESS YOU DISPLAYED IN ESCAPING MY LAST DEATH-TRAP, I'D BE A FOOL TO TAKE A CHANCE WITH YOU AGAIN!
SO...YOU'D HAVE TO BE HOUDINI HIMSELF TO ESCAPE ME THIS TIME!
CLL
AT THE SCENE OF A DRAMA OF REVENGE, AQUAMAN!
WHEN LAST WE MET, I SWORE I'D KILL YOU--BY HOOK OR BY CROOK!
LITTLE DID I KNOW I'D HAVE IT BOTH WAYS--I'M THE CROOK--AND THAT THING THAT'S HANGING YOU UP...
LOOK BELOW--SEE? AS I REEL OUT YOUR LINE, YOU DESCEND INTO THE CENTER OF A CIRCLE OF LASER-RIFLES
...THE SELFSAME RIFLES I--THROUGH BLACK MANTA--HAVE BEEN SUPPLYING TO KARSHON!
SOON WE SHALL HAVE...INSTANT FISH-FRY! HA HA HA!
DESPERATELY STRUGGLING AGAINST HIS BURNING NEED FOR WATER, THE SEA KING PUSHES HIS ACHING MUSCLES TO THE LIMIT...
...TO LITHELY DODGE THE DEADLY RING OF SEARING LASER-FIRE...
...ARCING HIS BODY UPWARD, TO A POINT ABOVE THE POLE FROM WHICH HE IS SUSPENDED.
CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE TO FOLLOWING

# THE ROLLING STONES
# BLACK AND BLUE
## ON ROLLING STONES RECORDS & TAPES

Produced by The Glimmer Twins

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# WHAT TO SINK YOUR TEETH INTO WHEN YOU'RE HUNGRY AND YOU'RE NOT A WEREWOLF.

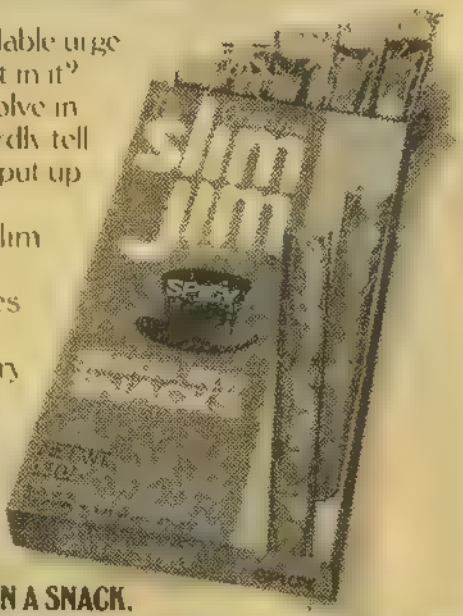
Every now and then do you get this uncontrollable urge to bite into something that's really got some meat in it?

Are you tired of sugar-sweet snacks that dissolve in your mouth and crunchy snacks that you can hardly tell you ate and all the other boring stuff you have to put up with, every day?

Well, take heart. And, while you're at it, take Slim Jim along in your pocket.

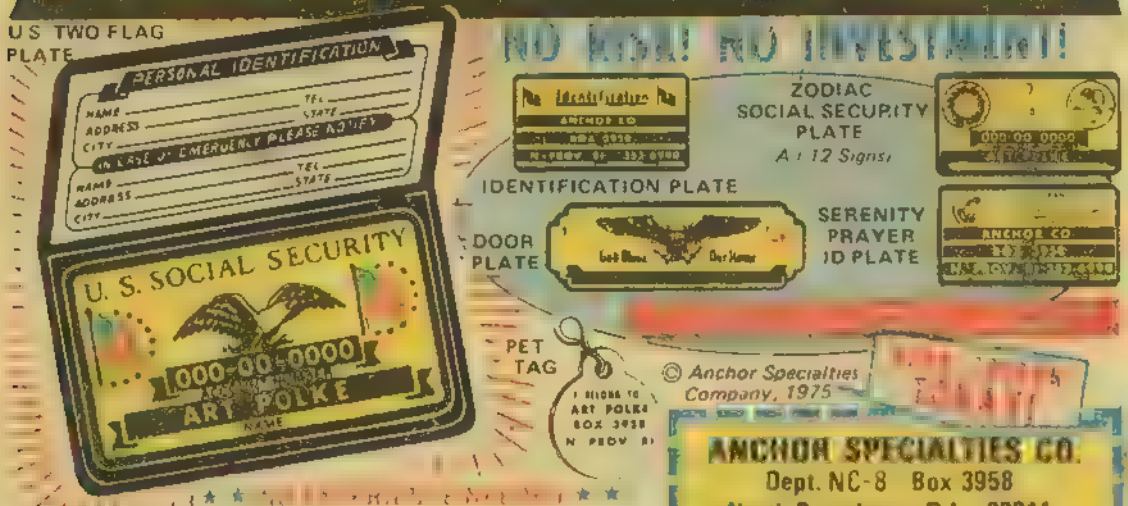
Slim Jim is a chewy, all-meat snack that comes in five very un-boring flavors. Mild, spicy, salami, bacon and pizza. And you can find it at the grocery store. Or at a lot of the places where you've been getting those sissy snacks.

You might want to carry a few extra ones, too. Then, if you meet a werewolf, you can give him something to sink his teeth into instead of you.




**A LITTLE LESS THAN A MEAL. A LITTLE MORE THAN A SNACK.**

# MAKE MONEY FAST!

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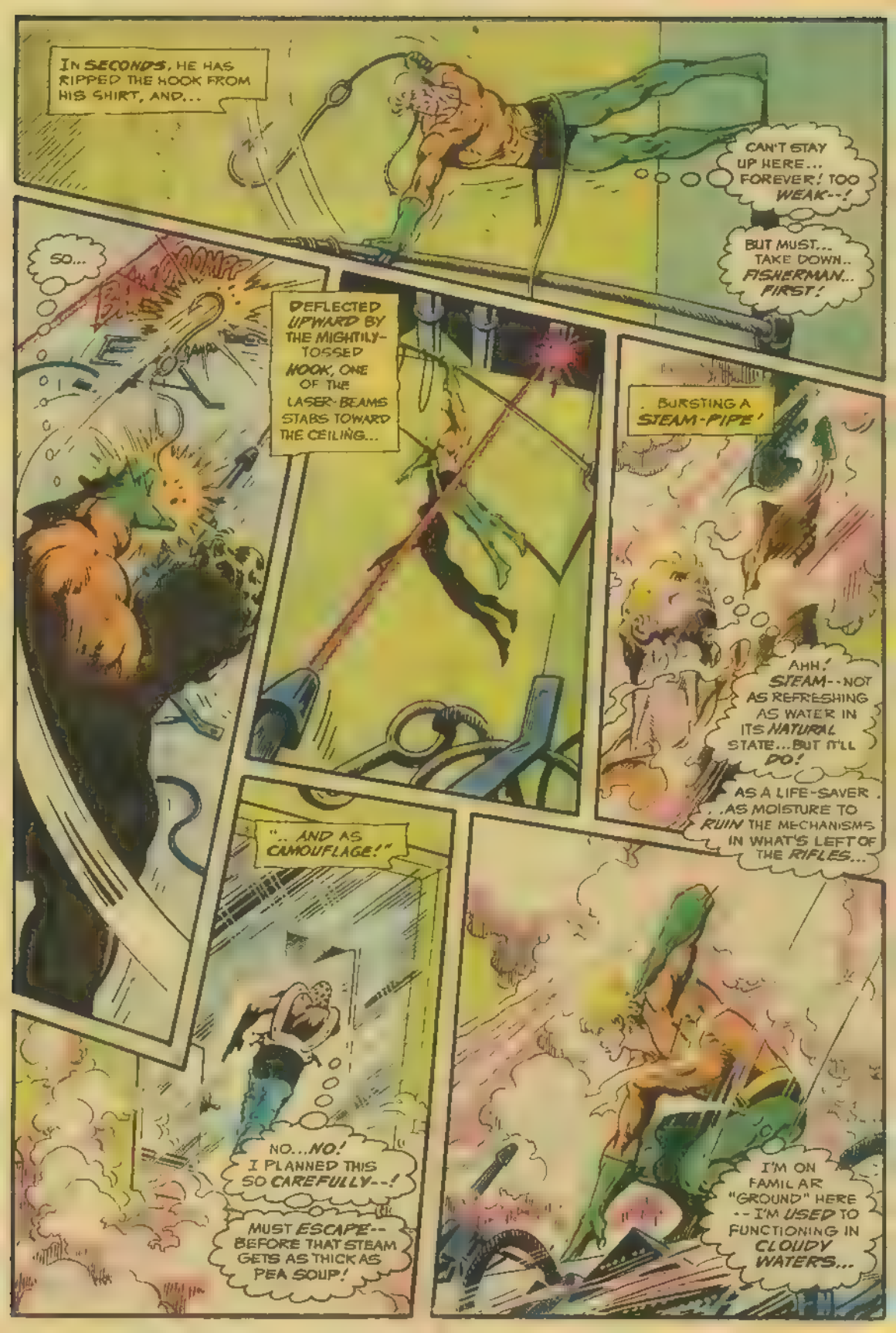
IN SECONDS, HE HAS RIPPED THE HOOK FROM HIS SHIRT, AND...
CAN'T STAY UP HERE... FOREVER! TOO WEAK--!
BUT MUST... TAKE DOWN.. FISHERMAN... FIRST!
SO...
DEFLECTED UPWARD BY THE MIGHTILY-TOSSED HOOK, ONE OF THE LASER-BEAMS STABS TOWARD THE CEILING...
. BURSTING A STEAM-PIPE!
AHH! STEAM--NOT AS REFRESHING AS WATER IN ITS NATURAL STATE...BUT IT'LL DO!
AS A LIFE-SAVER . .AS MOISTURE TO RUIN THE MECHANISMS IN WHAT'S LEFT OF THE RIFLES...
".. AND AS CAMOUFLAGE!"
NO...NO! I PLANNED THIS SO CAREFULLY--!
MUST ESCAPE-- BEFORE THAT STEAM GETS AS THICK AS PEA SOUP!
I'M ON FAMILIAR "GROUND" HERE --I'M USED TO FUNCTIONING IN CLOUDY WATERS...

LIKE A BLIND MAN..
...FIGHTING A SIGHTED PERSON...
...IN A DARKENED ROOM--
WHAKK
--EVEN THOUGH FISHY AND I CAN'T SEE EACH OTHER...
...FOR ME..
CONCLUDED ON 5TH PAGE FOLLOWING

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80 LADDERS for catapults
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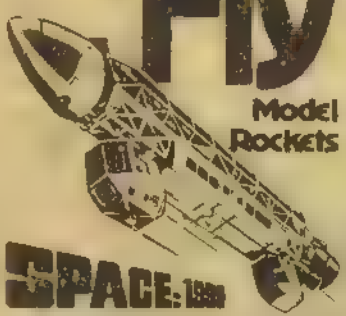

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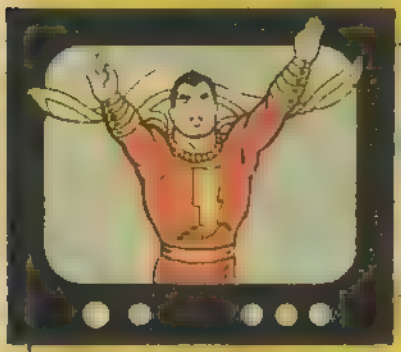


## SHAZAM!

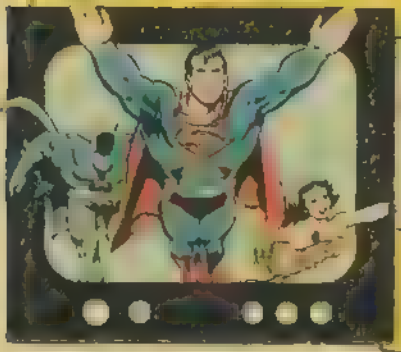
A COLLAPSING SCHOOLHOUSE... A MYSTIC MYSTERY IN EGYPT... THE WORLD'S WICKEDEST VILLAIN OUT TO DESTROY AMERICA AND ***CAPT. MARVEL***. EVEN WITH THE MIGHTY ISIS MAKING A SPECIAL GUEST APPEARANCE, CAN OUR HERO SURVIVE ?

## ISIS!

SPRINGING FROM SHAZAM TO HER OWN MAG... AND INTO DEADLY DANGER FROM THE SINISTER SCARAB! WILL ANDREA THOMAS' SECRET BE REVEALED TO THE WORLD... AND WILL SHE EVEN LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO FIND OUT ?

## WELCOME BACK, KOTTER!

THE SWEATHOGS ARE SWEATING IT OUT--THEY'RE ABOUT TO LOSE THEIR LEADER! NO, MR. WOODMAN HASN'T CANNED KOTTER--KOTTER'S QUITTING! WILL JAMES BUCHANAN HIGH EVER BE THE SAME ?



## SUPER FRIENDS!

SUPER-HEROES HAVE SUPER-HELPERS--BUT SO DO THE SUPER-***VILLAINS***! FIVE FURIOUS FOES--BACKED BY A SINISTER SECOND TEAM. BUT THERE'S A GREATER DANGER STILL--A TRAITOR WITHIN THE HALL OF JUSTICE ITSELF!

ALL THESE EXCITING NEW FEATURES WILL BE PREMIERING THIS SUMMER AT YOUR NEWSSTAND! LOOK FOR:
SHAZAM #25 · ON SALE JUNE 29TH!
ISIS #1 · ON SALE JULY 15TH!
WELCOME BACK, KOTTER #1 · ON SALE AUGUST 5TH!
SUPER FRIENDS #1 · ON SALE AUGUST 7TH!

...IT DOESN'T...
WHOOK!
REALLY...
..MATTER!
AT THAT MOMENT, BENEATH THE SOUTHERN ATLANTIC..
EXCELLENT! APPARENTLY, MY LITTLE BROTHERS HAD NO TROUBLE AT ALL OVERCOMING MERA AND THE CHILD!
NOW THE LAST STAGE OF THE BATTLE DRAWS NEAR! AQUAMAN WILL NO DOUBT RETURN TO HIS CAVE, EXPECTING TO FIND HIS WIFE AND SON!
WHEN HE FINDS THEM GONE, HIS ANGER WILL BE UNCONTROLLABLE-- MAKING HIM RIPE FOR THE FINAL... FATAL COMBAT!
YOU SEEM EXCEPTIONALLY EAGER FOR THIS DUEL...
...KARSHON!
MORE THAN YOU CAN KNOW, DEAR MANTA!
..FOR NOW-- BEFORE HE DIES--AQUAMAN WILL KNOW WHO AND WHAT I-- HIS KILLER-- REALLY AM!
NEXT:
• ARE MERA AND AQUABABY ALIVE... OR DEAD?!
• WHAT SHAPE WILL THE FINAL, FATAL (?) BATTLE TAKE?
• WHO--AND WHAT--IS KARSHON? DON'T MISS
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VOLUME 76 ISSUE 8 | WEEK OF JUNE 21, 1976 | BOB ROZAKIS: EDITOR

# SUPERMAN SAVES DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE!

(Philadelphia, 1776)—There's a plot afoot by British loyalists to steal the Declaration of Independence just before it is signed on July 4, 1776 and there's only one man who can stop it!

Is it Thomas Jefferson? John Hancock? George Washington? NO! This is a job for ... Clark Kent, reporter for Benjamin Franklin's Pennsylvania Gazette!

What's this, you ask? Clark *(Superman)* Kent lives in 1976 and is a TV reporter for WGBS, right? Not according to Cary Bates, Curt Swan and Tex Blaisdell in the full-length story "Die Now—Live Later" in *ACTION COMICS #463*! We don't want to spoil any of the surprises in this story, but we just know you'll be awaiting the magazine's arrival at your newsstand the week of June 28th so you can see for yourself as our mild-mannered Man of Steel mingles with our nation's founding fathers! It's a bicentennial treat you won't want to miss!

## *BINKY RETURNS FOR SUMMER FUN*

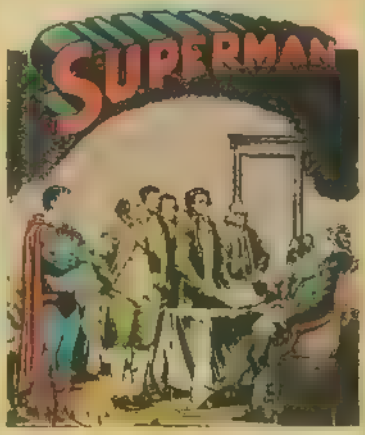
(Binky)—That popular teenage character, *Binky*, who brought fun and laughs to thousands of fans over the years will be returning to the DC line-up for a very special issue of all new adventures during the week of June 28th. Old fans will welcome his return and new readers will have the opportunity to meet him and all his friends in *BINKY #82*! Watch for it!

## *TRIVIA QUIZ #8*

Super-speed is the big thing this week as our *LIMITED COLLECTORS' EDITION* spotlights the race between *Superman* and *The Flash*. But while these two speedsters are racing to the ends of the universe, can you name three other DC characters who are noted for their swiftness and also give their secret identities? The answers will appear in next week's *PLANET*.

ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S QUIZ

1) *Power Girl* is on Earth-Two. 2) *The Creeper* is on Earth-One. 3) *Captain Marvel, Jr.* is on Earth-S. 4) *Uncle Sam* came from Earth-X to Earth-One. 5) Cary Bates, like the rest of us, is on Earth-Prime!




## *ISIS DEBUTS IN SHAZAM!*

(Shazam)—*Isis*, that fabulous female who shares a Saturday morning television show with *Captain Marvel* is now going to share a magazine with the Big Red Cheese as well—but only for one issue!

In *SHAZAM #25* (on sale the week of June 28th), you'll see the first adventure of *Isis* in print, a collaborative effort of Denny O'Neil and Dick Giordano. "Isis—as in Crisis" will make this issue a collectors' item!

And if you're wondering why *Isis* will only be appearing in one issue of *SHAZAM*, it's because she'll be starring in her very own magazine beginning in July!

## DIRECT CURRENTS

*ON SALE THE WEEK OF JUNE 28th*

*LIMITED COLLECTORS' EDITION # C-48 (THE SUPERMAN-FLASH RACE)*—A pair of super-speed races starring a pair of super-speedsters. "Superman's Race with The Flash" is by Jim Shooter, Curt Swan and George Klein. "Race to the End of the Universe" is by E. Nelson Bridwell, Ross Andru and Mike Esposito.

*LIMITED COLLECTORS' EDITION # C-49 (SUPERBOY & THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES)*—The greatest heroes of the 30th century face "Mordru the Merciless" and "The Devil's Jury" in this super-sized edition. Plus: lots of fabulous features!

*DETECTIVE COMICS #463*—*Batman's* out to smash a drug ring, but so is *The Black Spider*, who traps the Caped Crusader in a "Death-Web" by Gerry Conway, Ernie Chua and Frank McLaughlin. Then *The Atom* squares off against a new foe, *The Calculator*, in "Crimes By Calculation" by Bob Rozakis, Mike Grell and Terry Austin.

*PLOP #23*—The Fabulous Fantasy issue—Another giant-sized collection of plop madness as only Joe Orlando and company can present it!

*OUR ARMY AT WAR #297*—*Sgt. Rock* and the men of Easy Company find that war is just a lot of "Percentages" in a story by Bob Kanigher and Frank Redondo. Plus: another Gallery of War tale.

*KAMANDI #46*—Leopards, tigers, mutants and *Kamandi* add up to a story we call "The Wrath and the Fury" by Denny O'Neil, Keith Giffen and Jack Abel. Plus another tale of the Great Disaster: "Finale" by David Kraft, Mike Nassar and Joe Rubenstein.

*HOUSE OF SECRETS #142*—Host Abel presents "Who Goes There?" by Jack Oleck and Ernie Patricio, "Food for Thought" by George Kashdan and Leo Duranona, and "Playmate" by Oleck and Bill Draut.

*AND ON SALE RIGHT NOW:*

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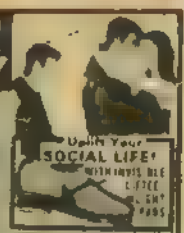

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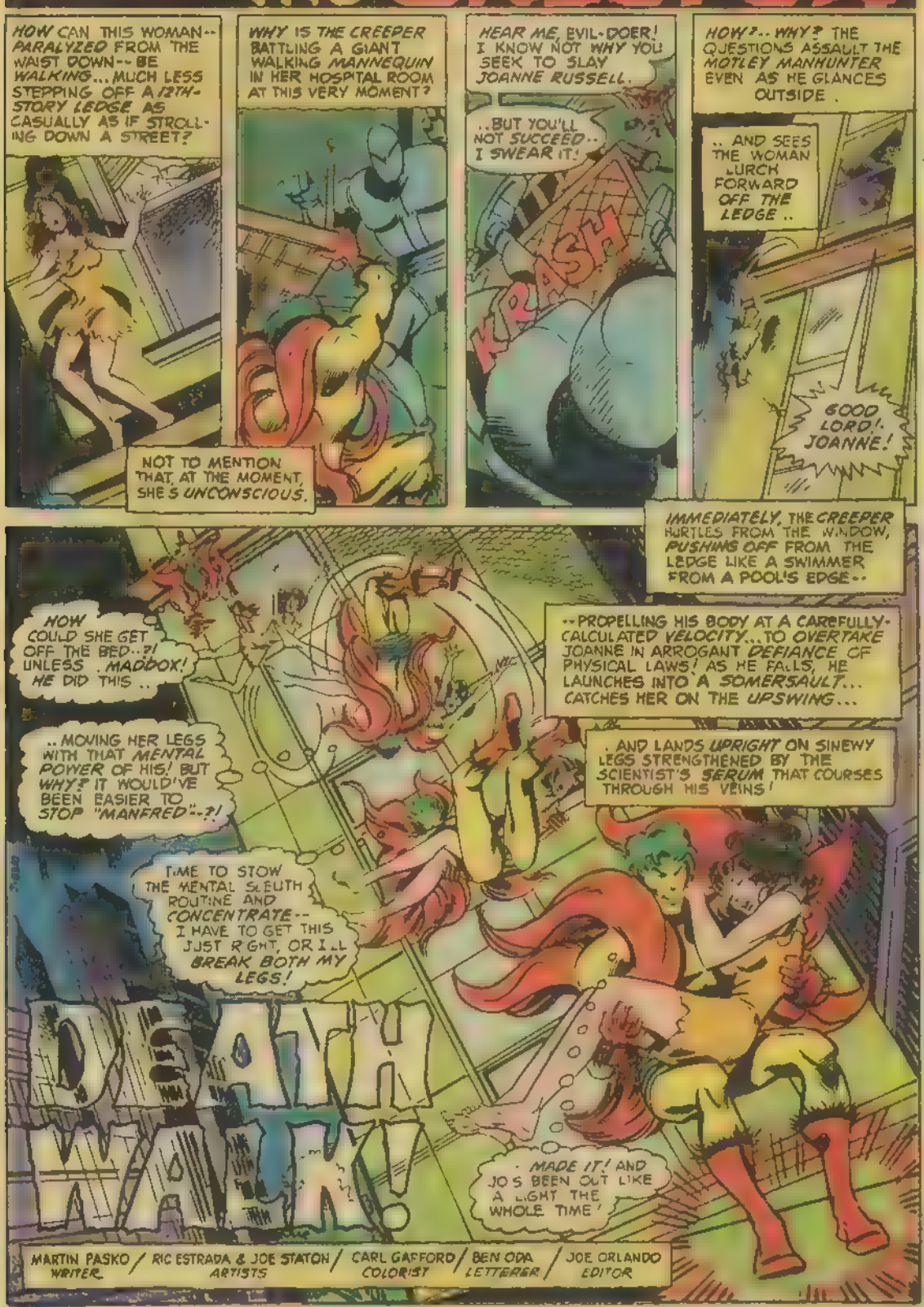
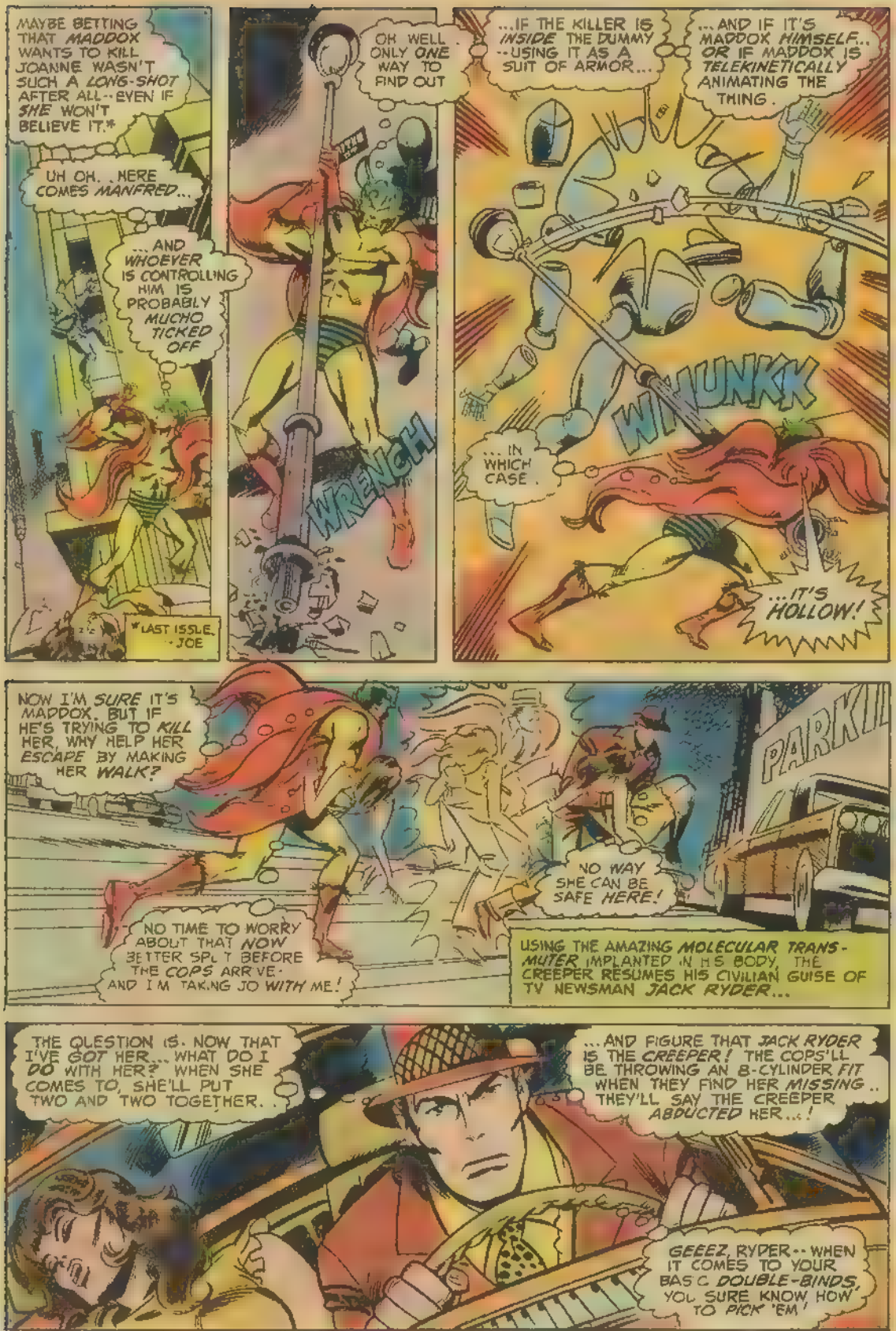
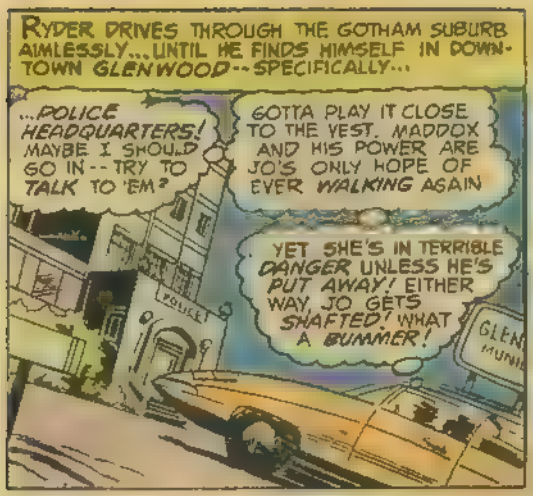
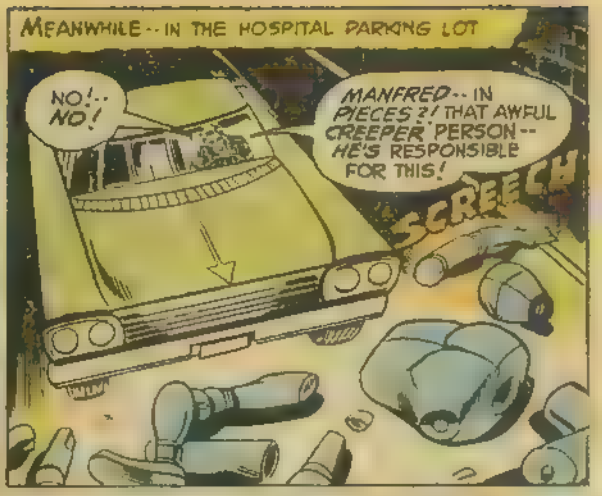
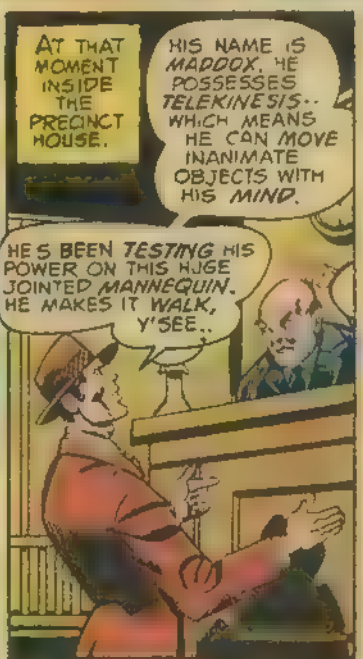

HOW CAN THIS WOMAN-- PARALYZED FROM THE WAIST DOWN-- BE WALKING... MUCH LESS STEPPING OFF A 12TH-STORY LEDGE AS CASUALLY AS IF STROLLING DOWN A STREET?
WHY IS THE CREEPER BATTLING A GIANT WALKING MANNEQUIN IN HER HOSPITAL ROOM AT THIS VERY MOMENT?
NOT TO MENTION THAT, AT THE MOMENT, SHE'S UNCONSCIOUS.
HEAR ME, EVIL-DOER! I KNOW NOT WHY YOU SEEK TO SLAY JOANNE RUSSELL.
..BUT YOU'LL NOT SUCCEED.. I SWEAR IT!
KRASH
HOW?.. WHY? THE QUESTIONS ASSAULT THE MOTLEY MANHUNTER EVEN AS HE GLANCES OUTSIDE.
.. AND SEES THE WOMAN LURCH FORWARD OFF THE LEDGE..
GOOD LORD!. JOANNE!
IMMEDIATELY, THE CREEPER HURTLES FROM THE WINDOW, PUSHING OFF FROM THE LEDGE LIKE A SWIMMER FROM A POOL'S EDGE..
HOW COULD SHE GET OFF THE BED..?! UNLESS . MADBOX! HE DID THIS ..
..PROPELLING HIS BODY AT A CAREFULLY-CALCULATED VELOCITY...TO OVERTAKE JOANNE IN ARROGANT DEFIANCE OF PHYSICAL LAWS! AS HE FALLS, HE LAUNCHES INTO A SOMERSAULT... CATCHES HER ON THE UPSWING...
..MOVING HER LEGS WITH THAT MENTAL POWER OF HIS! BUT WHY? IT WOULD'VE BEEN EASIER TO STOP "MANFRED"--?!
. AND LANDS UPRIGHT ON SINEWY LEGS STRENGTHENED BY THE SCIENTIST'S SERUM THAT COURSES THROUGH HIS VEINS!
TIME TO STOW THE MENTAL SLEUTH ROUTINE AND CONCENTRATE-- I HAVE TO GET THIS JUST RIGHT, OR I'LL BREAK BOTH MY LEGS!
DEATH WALK!
. MADE IT! AND JO'S BEEN OUT LIKE A LIGHT THE WHOLE TIME!
MARTIN PASKO / WRITER
RIC ESTRADA & JOE STATON / ARTISTS
CARL GAFFORD / COLORIST
BEN ODA / LETTERER
JOE ORLANDO / EDITOR


MAYBE BETTING THAT MADDOX WANTS TO KILL JOANNE WASN'T SUCH A LONG-SHOT AFTER ALL--EVEN IF SHE WON'T BELIEVE IT.*
UH OH..HERE COMES MANFRED...
...AND WHOEVER IS CONTROLLING HIM IS PROBABLY MUCHO TICKED OFF
*LAST ISSUE. - JOE
OH WELL. ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT
WRENCH
...IF THE KILLER IS INSIDE THE DUMMY --USING IT AS A SUIT OF ARMOR...
...AND IF IT'S MADDOX HIMSELF.. OR IF MADDOX IS TELEKINETICALLY ANIMATING THE THING.
WHUNKK
... IN WHICH CASE.
...IT'S HOLLOW!
NOW I'M SURE IT'S MADDOX. BUT IF HE'S TRYING TO KILL HER, WHY HELP HER ESCAPE BY MAKING HER WALK?
NO TIME TO WORRY ABOUT THAT NOW BETTER SPLIT BEFORE THE COPS ARRIVE- AND I'M TAKING JO WITH ME!
NO WAY SHE CAN BE SAFE HERE!
PARKIN
USING THE AMAZING MOLECULAR TRANS-MUTER IMPLANTED IN HIS BODY, THE CREEPER RESUMES HIS CIVILIAN GUISE OF TV NEWSMAN JACK RYDER...
THE QUESTION IS- NOW THAT I'VE GOT HER... WHAT DO I DO WITH HER? WHEN SHE COMES TO, SHE'LL PUT TWO AND TWO TOGETHER..
...AND FIGURE THAT JACK RYDER IS THE CREEPER! THE COPS'LL BE THROWING AN 8-CYLINDER FIT WHEN THEY FIND HER MISSING.. THEY'LL SAY THE CREEPER ABDUCTED HER...!
GEEEZ, RYDER-- WHEN IT COMES TO YOUR BASIC DOUBLE-BINDS, YOU SURE KNOW HOW TO PICK 'EM!

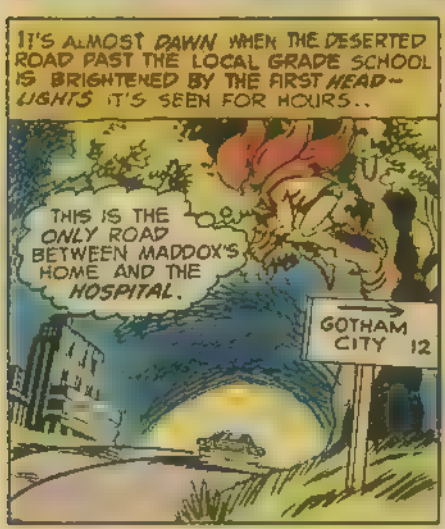

RYDER DRIVES THROUGH THE GOTHAM SUBURB AIMLESSLY... UNTIL HE FINDS HIMSELF IN DOWNTOWN GLENWOOD -- SPECIFICALLY...
...POLICE HEADQUARTERS! MAYBE I SHOULD GO IN -- TRY TO TALK TO 'EM?
GOTTA PLAY IT CLOSE TO THE VEST. MADDOX AND HIS POWER ARE JO'S ONLY HOPE OF EVER WALKING AGAIN
YET SHE'S IN TERRIBLE DANGER UNLESS HE'S PUT AWAY! EITHER WAY, JO GETS SHAFTED! WHAT A BUMMER!
POLICE
GLEN

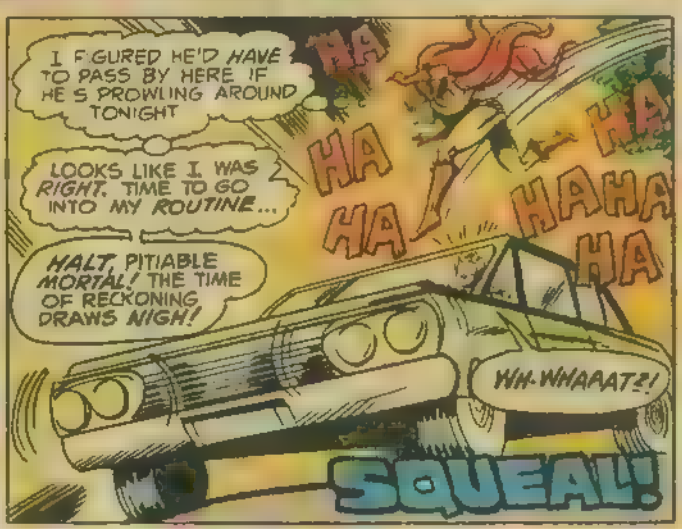

MEANWHILE -- IN THE HOSPITAL PARKING LOT
NO!.. NO!
MANFRED -- IN PIECES?! THAT AWFUL CREEPER PERSON -- HE'S RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS!
SCREECH

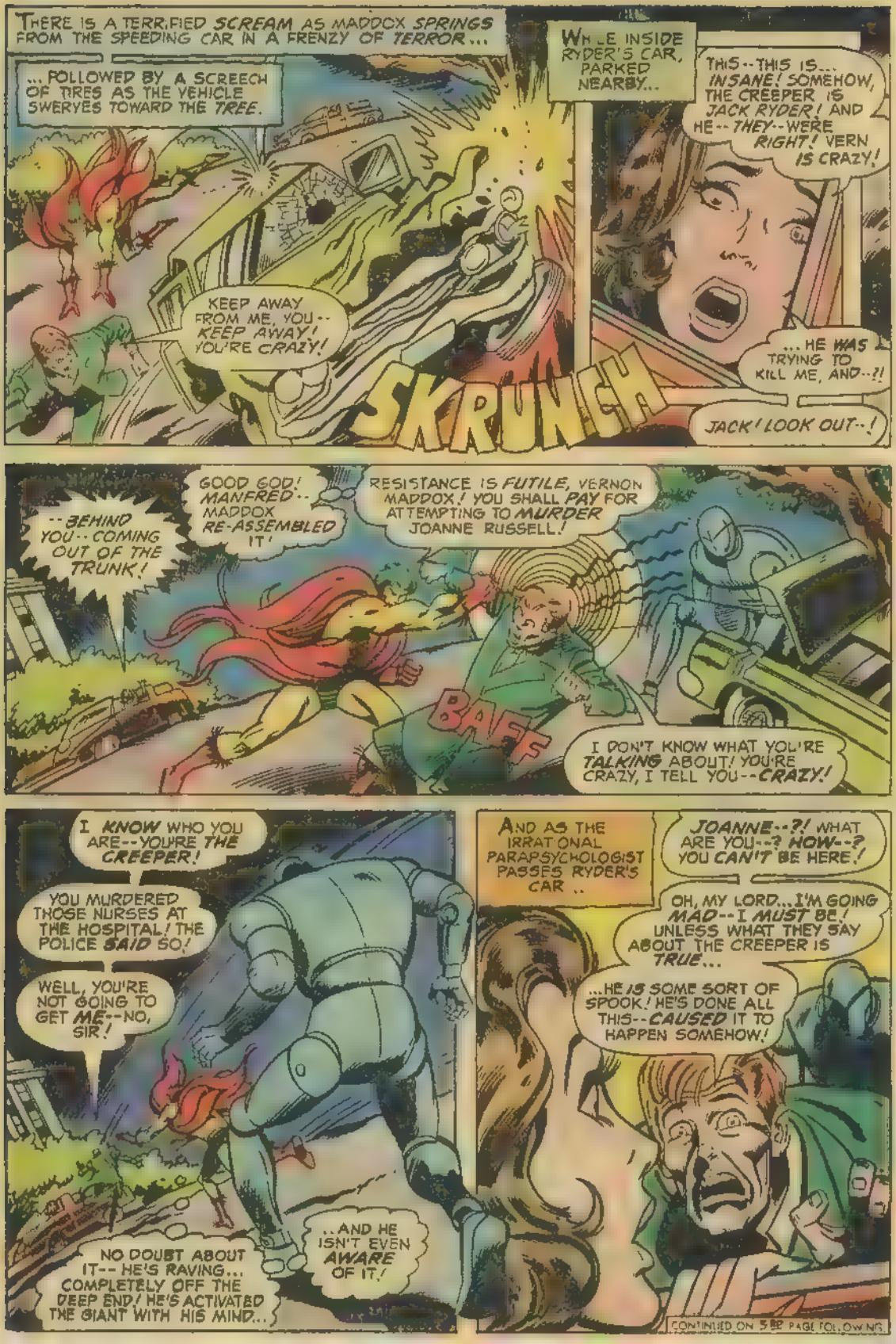
HOW DARE HE TRY TO THWART VERNON MADDOX -- A MIND OF SUCH POWER AS HE CANNOT COMPREHEND?!
FOR THIS OUTRAGE... HE WILL PAY DEARLY!


AT THAT MOMENT INSIDE THE PRECINCT HOUSE.
HIS NAME IS MADDOX. HE POSSESSES TELEKINESIS.. WHICH MEANS HE CAN MOVE INANIMATE OBJECTS WITH HIS MIND.
HE'S BEEN TESTING HIS POWER ON THIS HUGE JOINTED MANNEQUIN. HE MAKES IT WALK, Y'SEE..

RYDER, EH? HEH-HEH... I KNOW YOU. I SEEN YUZ ON THE TAY-VAY, I DID YER A RIGHT KIDDER, TOO. AIN'T YUZ, BOYO?
YER FULL O' THE BLARNEY... AND I'D BE AFTER LOSIN' ME BADGE IF I'D BE BELIEVIN' YUZ'
THANKS.
THANKS A BUNCH.


IT'S ALMOST DAWN WHEN THE DESERTED ROAD PAST THE LOCAL GRADE SCHOOL IS BRIGHTENED BY THE FIRST HEADLIGHTS IT'S SEEN FOR HOURS..
THIS IS THE ONLY ROAD BETWEEN MADDOX'S HOME AND THE HOSPITAL.
GOTHAM CITY 12


I FIGURED HE'D HAVE TO PASS BY HERE IF HE'S PROWLING AROUND TONIGHT
LOOKS LIKE I WAS RIGHT. TIME TO GO INTO MY ROUTINE...
HALT, PITIABLE MORTAL! THE TIME OF RECKONING DRAWS NIGH!
HA HA HA
HA HA HA HA
WH-WHAAAT?!
SQUEAL!


THERE IS A TERRIFIED SCREAM AS MADDOX SPRINGS FROM THE SPEEDING CAR IN A FRENZY OF TERROR...
...FOLLOWED BY A SCREECH OF TIRES AS THE VEHICLE SWERVES TOWARD THE TREE.
KEEP AWAY FROM ME, YOU--KEEP AWAY! YOU'RE CRAZY!
SKRUNCH
WHILE INSIDE RYDER'S CAR, PARKED NEARBY...
THIS--THIS IS... INSANE! SOMEHOW, THE CREEPER IS JACK RYDER! AND HE--THEY--WERE RIGHT! VERN IS CRAZY!
...HE WAS TRYING TO KILL ME, AND--?!
JACK! LOOK OUT--!
--BEHIND YOU--COMING OUT OF THE TRUNK!
GOOD GOD! MANFRED--MADDOX RE-ASSEMBLED IT!
RESISTANCE IS FUTILE, VERNON MADDOX! YOU SHALL PAY FOR ATTEMPTING TO MURDER JOANNE RUSSELL!
BAFF
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT! YOU'RE CRAZY, I TELL YOU--CRAZY!
I KNOW WHO YOU ARE--YOU'RE THE CREEPER!
YOU MURDERED THOSE NURSES AT THE HOSPITAL! THE POLICE SAID SO!
WELL, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GET ME--NO, SIR!
NO DOUBT ABOUT IT--HE'S RAVING... COMPLETELY OFF THE DEEP END! HE'S ACTIVATED THE GIANT WITH HIS MIND...
..AND HE ISN'T EVEN AWARE OF IT!
AND AS THE IRRATIONAL PARAPSYCHOLOGIST PASSES RYDER'S CAR..
JOANNE--?! WHAT ARE YOU--? HOW--? YOU CAN'T BE HERE!
OH, MY LORD...I'M GOING MAD--I MUST BE! UNLESS WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT THE CREEPER IS TRUE...
...HE IS SOME SORT OF SPOOK! HE'S DONE ALL THIS--CAUSED IT TO HAPPEN SOMEHOW!
CONTINUED ON 5TH PAGE FOLLOWING

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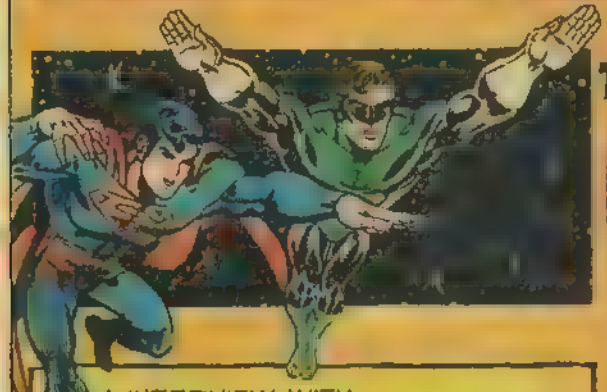

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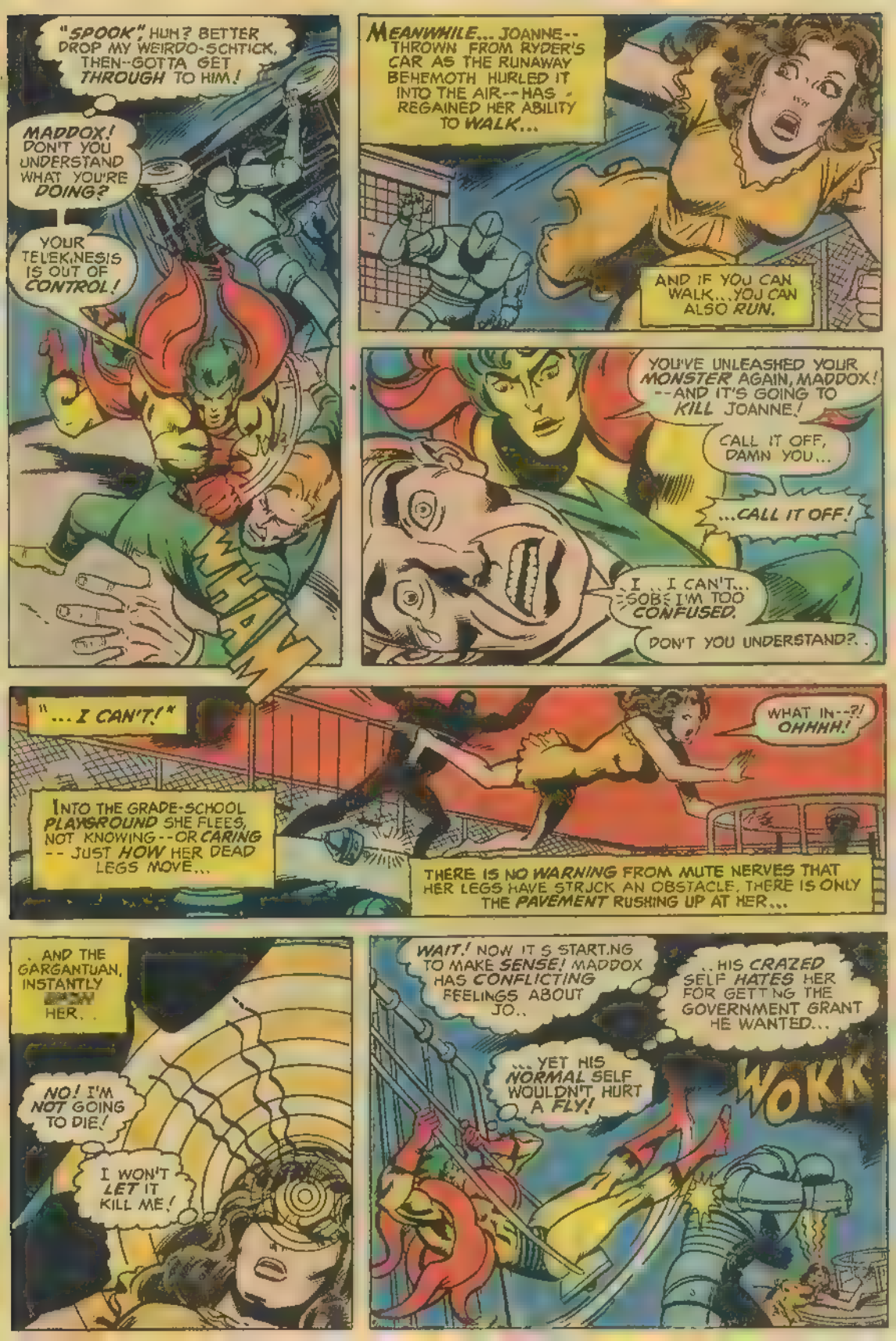
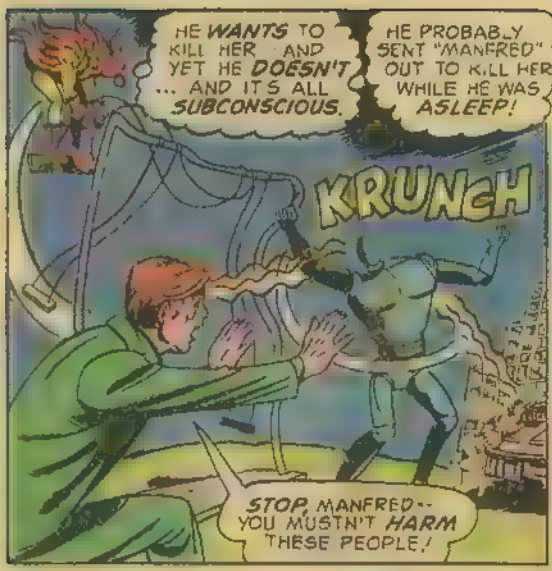
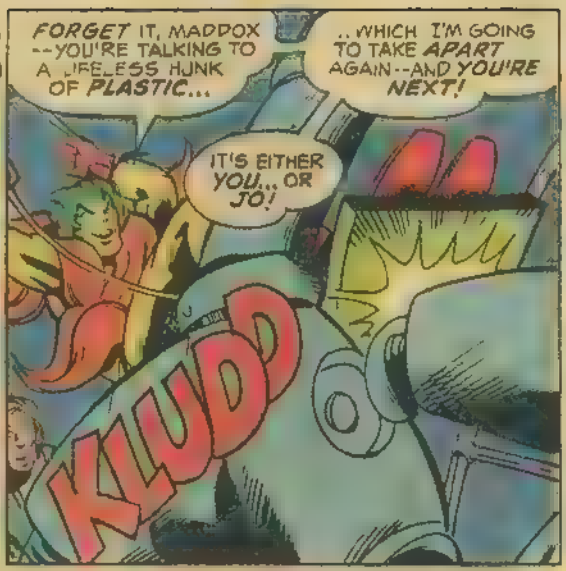
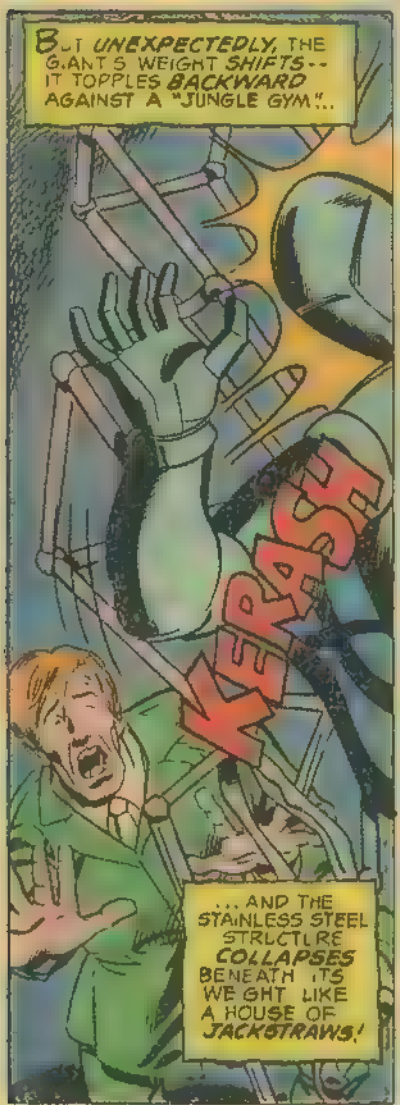
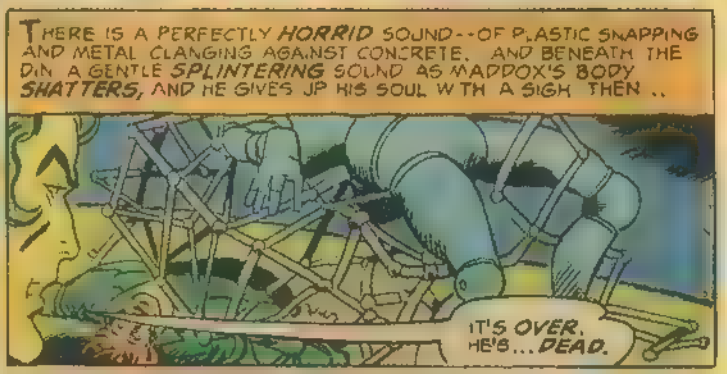
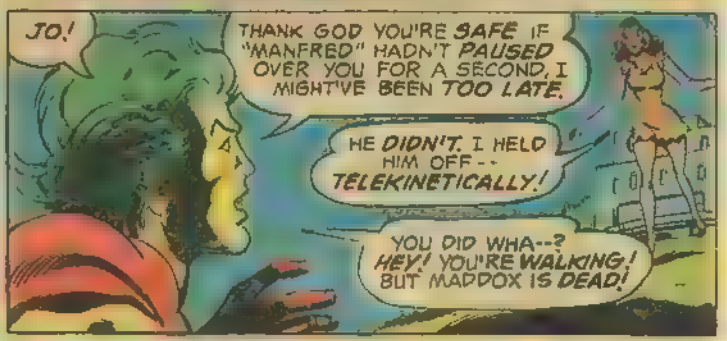

"SPOOK", HUH? BETTER DROP MY WEIRDO-SCHTICK, THEN--GOTTA GET THROUGH TO HIM!
MADDOX! DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE DOING?
YOUR TELEKINESIS IS OUT OF CONTROL!
WHAM
MEANWHILE... JOANNE--THROWN FROM RYDER'S CAR AS THE RUNAWAY BEHEMOTH HURLED IT INTO THE AIR--HAS REGAINED HER ABILITY TO WALK...
AND IF YOU CAN WALK...YOU CAN ALSO RUN.
YOU'VE UNLEASHED YOUR MONSTER AGAIN, MADDOX! --AND IT'S GOING TO KILL JOANNE!
CALL IT OFF, DAMN YOU...
...CALL IT OFF!
I...I CAN'T... SOB I'M TOO CONFUSED.
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?..
"...I CAN'T!"
WHAT IN--?! OHHHH!
INTO THE GRADE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUND SHE FLEES, NOT KNOWING--OR CARING--JUST HOW HER DEAD LEGS MOVE...
THERE IS NO WARNING FROM MUTE NERVES THAT HER LEGS HAVE STRUCK AN OBSTACLE. THERE IS ONLY THE PAVEMENT RUSHING UP AT HER...
...AND THE GARGANTUAN, INSTANTLY [illegible] HER...
NO! I'M NOT GOING TO DIE!
I WON'T LET IT KILL ME!
WAIT! NOW IT'S STARTING TO MAKE SENSE! MADDOX HAS CONFLICTING FEELINGS ABOUT JO..
...HIS CRAZED SELF HATES HER FOR GETTING THE GOVERNMENT GRANT HE WANTED...
...YET HIS NORMAL SELF WOULDN'T HURT A FLY!
WOKK

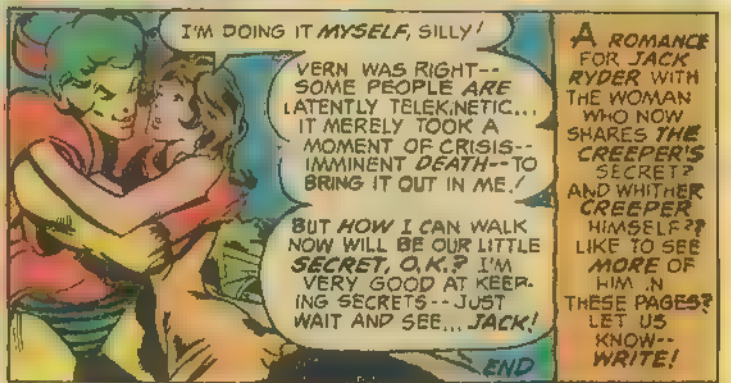

HE WANTS TO KILL HER AND YET HE DOESN'T ... AND IT'S ALL SUBCONSCIOUS.
HE PROBABLY SENT "MANFRED" OUT TO KILL HER WHILE HE WAS ASLEEP!
KRUNCH
STOP, MANFRED-- YOU MUSTN'T HARM THESE PEOPLE!


FORGET IT, MADDOX --YOU'RE TALKING TO A LIFELESS HUNK OF PLASTIC...
..WHICH I'M GOING TO TAKE APART AGAIN--AND YOU'RE NEXT!
IT'S EITHER YOU... OR JO!
KLUDD


BUT UNEXPECTEDLY, THE GIANT'S WEIGHT SHIFTS-- IT TOPPLES BACKWARD AGAINST A "JUNGLE GYM"..
KERASH
... AND THE STAINLESS STEEL STRUCTURE COLLAPSES BENEATH ITS WEIGHT LIKE A HOUSE OF JACKSTRAWS!


THERE IS A PERFECTLY HORRID SOUND--OF PLASTIC SNAPPING AND METAL CLANGING AGAINST CONCRETE. AND BENEATH THE DIN A GENTLE SPLINTERING SOUND AS MADDOX'S BODY SHATTERS, AND HE GIVES UP HIS SOUL WITH A SIGH. THEN ..
IT'S OVER. HE'S... DEAD.


JO!
THANK GOD YOU'RE SAFE IF "MANFRED" HADN'T PAUSED OVER YOU FOR A SECOND, I MIGHT'VE BEEN TOO LATE.
HE DIDN'T. I HELD HIM OFF-- TELEKINETICALLY!
YOU DID WHA--? HEY! YOU'RE WALKING! BUT MADDOX IS DEAD!


I'M DOING IT MYSELF, SILLY!
VERN WAS RIGHT-- SOME PEOPLE ARE LATENTLY TELEKINETIC... IT MERELY TOOK A MOMENT OF CRISIS-- IMMINENT DEATH--TO BRING IT OUT IN ME./
BUT HOW I CAN WALK NOW WILL BE OUR LITTLE SECRET, O.K.? I'M VERY GOOD AT KEEPING SECRETS--JUST WAIT AND SEE... JACK!
END
A ROMANCE FOR JACK RYDER WITH THE WOMAN WHO NOW SHARES THE CREEPER'S SECRET? AND WHITHER CREEPER HIMSELF?? LIKE TO SEE MORE OF HIM IN THESE PAGES? LET US KNOW-- WRITE!

# DATELINE: ADVENTURE

J- 4314

Dear Joe,

Somewhere between the spectacular and the mundane, there lies an almost extinct medium known as the GOOD comic book. A comic book that is, quite simply, good in concept, good in execution, and (most importantly) good in retrospect. The **Aquaman** strip in **ADVENTURE** is an excellent example of this rarest of prizes . . . a comic book which is entertaining (and often thought-provoking) for a half-hour or so, without assaulting the senses or lulling one to sleep.

And, ah, what a joy the **Aquaman** strip has become for me. I can buy each issue confident that it will be good. No "iffy" conditions, no flipping through the issue at the newsstand to see if it's worth buying. **ADVENTURE** has become a dependable comic, a fan's best friend, a whatever-you-want-to-call-it-but-it's-great.

My fondness for **Aquaman** stems not only from its concept but from its creators, too (shamefully uncredited in #445). Paul Levitz is a master scripter. There I said it. It may not be readily apparent, but it's true. He has made **Aquaman** the consistently beautiful strip it is, by making each and every story good on its own terms, while adding to the merits of the continued plot-line simultaneously. A difficult task, but one Levitz has pulled off with structural wizardry and finesse. Plot-wise, this issue introduced **Aquaman**'s new hideout (and for some reason, I am a sucker for those HQ diagrams that pop up in your books from time to time). Character-wise, it strengthened the long-ignored Aqua-family's bonds. As **DC**'s only paternal superhero, **Aquaman** has a great deal of potential as far as family life that other heroes don't have. It's nice to see it being used. Mera is also becoming one of the most interesting women in comics. As **Aquaman**'s friend, advisor, companion, and lover, she has redefined the word "wife" in comics so that it now has connotations of a fully developed individual, and not a husband's shadow. Feminism has taken terrific strides in this strip, but done it quietly, which is, of course, more appealing. Subtle ways are best.

I am really in no hurry to see this current plot-line reach its conclusion. Let the Aqua-family develop a little, and then go in for political intrigue (of which there is much . . . remember, even when **Aquaman** does defeat Karshon, he just can't assume the throne again, since he was voted out by legitimate grievances). As long as stories like "Toxxin's Raiders" are staple fare in this book, I will indeed be happy. The undersea world is enormously expansive, and I've grown tired of Atlantis (unless, of course, you decide to reconcile **Aquaman**'s Atlantis with Lori Lemaris' Atlantis once and for all, which I urge you to do, even for one issue).

Bob Rodi, Columbia, Missouri

**While we blush from such rosy compliments, we must point out that Paul has done only about half the work on the AQUAMAN series so far, between fill-ins and co-scripted issues, and has hardly proved himself a "master" yet. But he might get that chance next issue, when the Sea King stars in a new novel-length adventure which wraps up most of the plot threads of this series.**

Dear Joe,

"Toxxin's Raiders" was a disappointment after the last three issues, as it tried to bring back the Cardy flavor with Aparo as artist and Levitz/Conway as writers. Though this had Aparo's best art yet, the story still made me yearn for Cardy's work again. The plot was terrible, though —typical **Korak** formula.

"Deadly Medicine" was no better than I expected it to be after reading the **Creeper**'s **FIS**. The human interest angle was too poorly executed to make up for the weakness of the plot, and the ending doomed the next two parts. The Estrada/Staton team worked okay here, but why not have Staton do it by himself?

Though signed "JA", the cover looked like a Calnan/Aparo collaboration, and was not good. Once **DC**'s best comic, **ADVENTURE** has fallen way down the list this issue.

Mark Schmieder, Concord, Massachusetts

**Mr. Aparo claims solo credit for the cover, and frankly, we can't imagine where you saw a Calnan influence . . . or a Conway influence in the script.**

• • • • •

Dear Mr. Orlando,

Congratulations are in order for you, Joe. You are currently producing **DC**'s best magazine. **ADVENTURE COMICS** has come from nowhere to being your best title in just a few short years, with **Aquaman** as the lead and the current **Creeper** series, you have a truly fine magazine. The new issue (#445) was very well done.

The **Aquaman** story was just plain excellent; a fast-paced script without dead spots and just enough action in this one. I do have one minor complaint: why is Aquababy constantly called Aquababy? Doesn't he have a real name? The art was way above par as usual and I am really looking forward to next issue's story as Black Manta is one of my favorite villains.

**The Creeper** is great! The Estrada/Staton artwork is so fitted to this series that it is beyond belief. Ric Estrada can be horrendous when coupled with the wrong inker, but Joe Staton is suited to him perfectly. The dialogue of Jack Ryder is just right for a man that may be a little off his rocker anyway. He is sort of Spider-Mannish. **The Creeper** has just enough humor in it to keep it from being melodramatic.

Joshua Case, Baltimore, Maryland

**We enjoyed the current CREEPER tale too, and are trying to decide whether to follow it up immediately with a sequel. But don't worry, we're not getting too settled in our ways—there's a three-part DEMON back-up in the works from Pasko & Simonson as well!**

• • • • •

**Next: more mail, of course! Provided you send your comments to: DATELINE: ADVENTURE, National Periodical Publications, New York, New York 10019.**

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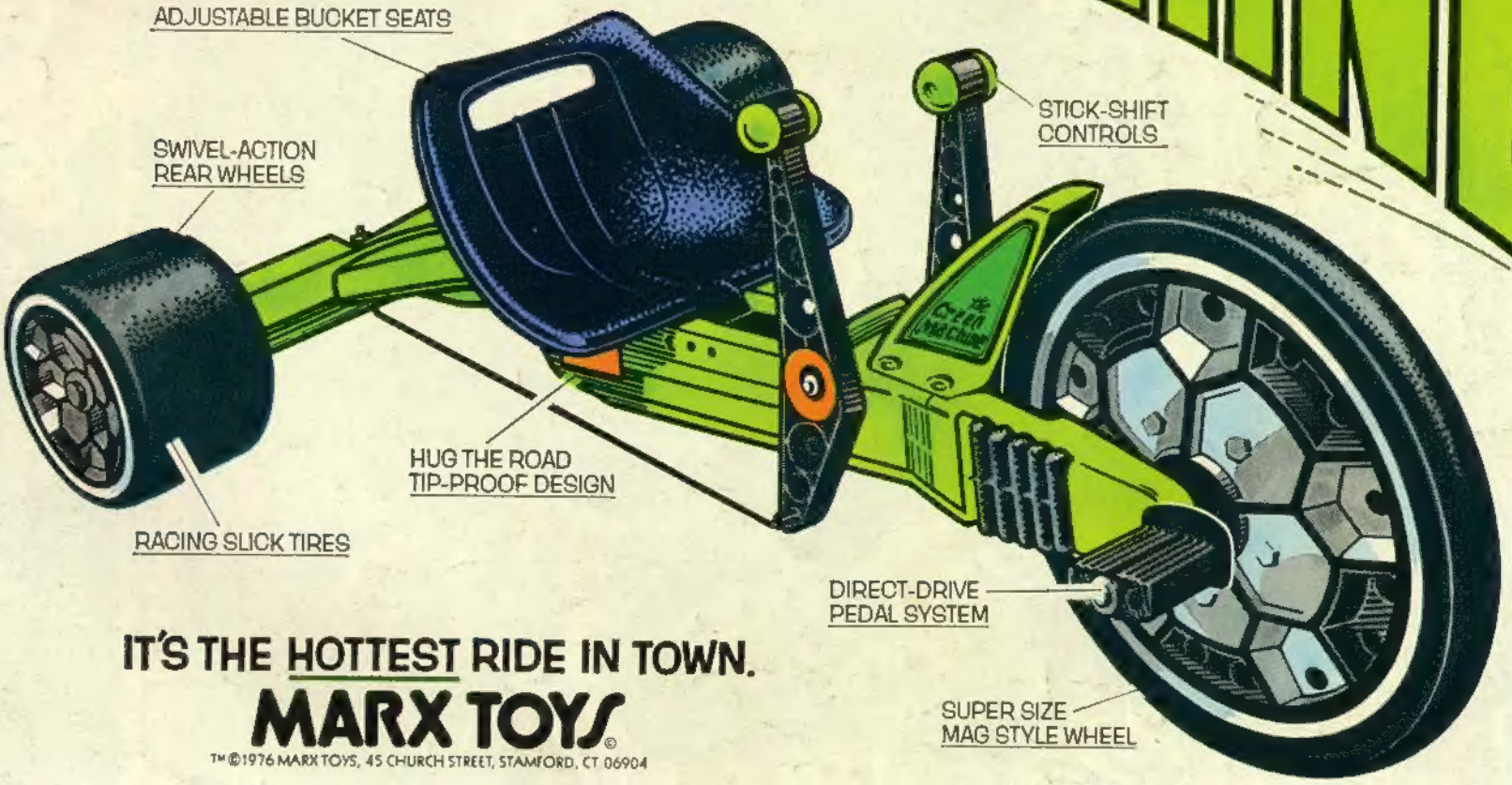


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